Re: Read out from call with Minister FPC and US Ambassador

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Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 9, 2022, at 6:38 PM, Caplan Jamieson, Meredith <Meredith.CaplanJamieson@iga-aig.gc.ca> wrote:
>
> Hi All,
>
> Minister Champagne just spoke with the US Ambassador. Including a readout of their conversation below:
>
>
> Amb:
> • That would be great
> • I have one other thing to raise
> • Would like to talk about truckers
> • Are you open to that discussion?
>
> FPC
> • Multi-department discussion
> • My take is talking to all the folks--unions, automakers, pushing province to do what they should be doing -- enforce the law
>
> Amb
> • Let's focus on that
> • A lot of focus on what's happening in Ottawa, but our government's highest focus is the ambassador bridge
> • That choke point has something like 25% of trade between Canada/US crossed the bridge
> • GM and Ford will start closing plants tomorrow
> • People will be out of work, assembly lines will close; we're out of time to solve that problem; but we have the mayor of Windsor doing a press conference in which he announced he would NOT have the police remove the trucks
> • Part of the question is -- I know it's local government responsibility -- CBSA has been able to open up one lane in the southbound flow, but no traffic opened up northbound
> • We're told CBSA is responsible for southbound flow, and local police is responsible for northbound flow
> • Local police haven't been able to negotiate effectively
> • One of my ideas -- is there any way the CBSA could step in and help negotiate a resolution for northbound traffic as they've done with southbound traffic?
>

> FPC
> • I've been in touch with Stellantis, Honda, both are in line with what Ford and GM are saying
> • It's very challenging to have a jurisdiction not enforcing rule of law
> • We have to take national leadership for something where our legal authority doesn't extend
> • We need the Ontario provincial police to enforce the law
> • One thing I may say, Ambassador, is that if you expressed to Premier Ford your concerns, it would be something that would be helpful so he understands the impact
> • On CBSA, I will go and ask about that
> • I appreciate the idea
>
> Amb
> • I'm not taking sides here, but Ottawa Mayor and Police Chief asked for 1800 RCMP -- what they determined was necessary to supplement their 1100
> • They got 250 -- that's a place where the federal response was woefully inadequate
>
> FPC
> • When you look at operating plan, decisions were made based on Ottawa Police's plan
> • Without going into operational details, Bill Blair, the former police chief of city of Toronto--we have a lot of police experience in Cabinet -- but I think public reporting doesn't match operational reporting
> • Three divisions around Ottawa -- they'll be deployed based on operational plans
> • Something we're trying to coordinate better
> • OPP; RCMP; Protective Services
> • Nothing like this has ever happened in Canada
>
> Amb
> • I'm really less focused on Ottawa, though it's a mess
> • I'm far more focused on the Ambassador bridge
> • Ottawa, while messy, embarrassing for the capital city to be under siege like this, and uncomfortable, it's not having the impact that the Ambassador Bridge is having on commerce and jobs
> • Loss of tens of thousands of Canadian and American jobs
> • Trying to earn middle class jobs to support families
>
> FPC
> • Agree entirely

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> • This is top of mind. I'm as concerned as you are. I've been impressing on everyone how serious this is
> • We have plenty of officers -- it's the will that has to come from those who need to make the decisions
>
> Amb
> • I want to communicate strongest possible way from US government what an enormous priority it is for us to open these bridges
> • Even if you open one lane in each direction, that's enough to relieve the pressure. If local police won't do it, someone has to step in to enable local police to step in.
>
> FPC
> • I don't understand why the will isn't there.
> • This is not happening in Quebec -- issue of will -- but if you reach out to Premier, that would help
>
> Amb
> • If anyone else at Minister level who would like to talk to me, get them to give me a call

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> FPC
> • It would be good to talk to Minister responsible for CBSA -- Minister Mendocino -- Public Safety
>
> Amb
> • Absolutely -- he has my number
>
> Meredith Caplan Jamieson
> Senior Advisor